

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 09076 271702Z

70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AF-08 ARA-06

NEA-10 NSC-05 SS-15 /096 W
----- 018236

R 271536Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6493

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. COMING AS IT DID IN THE MIDST OF SECURITY COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND
TURKEY, WHICH WAS OCCUPYING THE MAIN ATTENTION OF THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AT THE TIME, THE TRAGIC INCIDENT AT
PANMUNJOM DID NOT HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT HERE. THE GREEKS WERE,
OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE PANMUNJOM AFFAIR THROUGH MEDIA
REPORTING, AND WERE GENERALLY REPELLED BY THE VIOLENT
MURDER OF THE U.S. OFFICERS. DURING OUR INFORMAL CONVERSA-
TIONS WITH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL GREEKS, MANY INDIVIDUALS
EXPRESSED THEIR REPUGNANCE AT THIS HORRID OCCURENCE. THERE
WAS NOT, HOWEVER, ANY OFFICIAL GOG REACTION.

2. MUCH OF THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS
SURROUNDING THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT WAS ESSENTIALLY OBJECTIVE
AND BASED PRIMARILY ON FOREIGN REPORTING THROUGH WIRE
SERVICE FILES OR SPECIAL "CORRESPONDENTS" REPORTING
FROM WASHINGTON. THE BROADCASTING SERVICES PRESENTED
THE NEWS FACTUALLY, AS DID THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 09076 271702Z

PRESS. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, NEVERTHELESS, EXCEPTIONS

WERE THE COMMUNIST AND LEFTIST DAILIES WHICH WEIGHED THEIR PRESENTATIONS DECIDEDLY IN FAVOR OF NORTH KOREA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR'S NEWSPAPER RIZOSPASTIS HEADED ITS INITIAL STORY "U.S. PROVOCATIONS AT WAR", WHILE DISSIDENT COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR'S AVGHI ENTITLED ITS ARTICLE "U.S. TRYING TO CREATE A CRISIS IN KOREA". AVGHI EDITORIALIZED THAT THE U.S. SOUGHT A WAR IN ASIA TO SELL MORE ARMS, BUT THAT IT WOULD MEET WITH THE SAME RESOUNDING DEFEAT AS IT SUFFERED IN VIETNAM.

3. THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE GREEK POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE UN. GREECE'S ATTITUDE AND VOTES ON THIS AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES AT THE UNGA WILL IN LARGE PART BE DETERMINED IN THE CONTENT OF UNGA CONSIDERATION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND HOW GREECE'S POSITION ON ANY GIVEN ISSUE IS LIKELY TO AFFECT SUPPORT BY OTHER UN MEMBERS ON THIS QUESTION.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DMZ, MURDER, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS09076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0543
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalsn.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 211862
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, UR, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006